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To the Hon. the Legislative Assembly in Provincial Parliament Assembled.

THE PETITION OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF YARMOUTH IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED,

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

That Your Petitioners have met in Special Session of Council for the express purpose of taking into consideration the Territorial Divisions Bill now before Your Honourable House, but more particularly the dividing line, therein laid down for the County of Middlesex.

Your Petitioners highly approve of the principle of dividing the large and populous Counties in Canada West, as contemplated in the Territorial Divisions Bill, which Your Petitioners were pleased to learn had passed the second reading before Your Honourable House, and which Your Petitioners believe will meet with the approbation of the people of Upper Canada.

Your Petitioners, representing the Township of Yarmouth, containing a population of about six thousand inhabitants, while expressing their approval of the principle of the Territorial Divisions Bill, most humbly and earnestly solicit Your Honourable House to adhere to the dividing line for the County of Middlesex, as entered in the said Bill, as the only line that will give justice to the County, and general satisfaction to the People.

Your Petitioners respectfully represent that the Freeholders and Householders of the Talbot settlement, or Southern Division of Middlesex, have been agitating openly and publicly for many years, to form a new County from the South division of Middlesex. During the Parliament in the year A. D. 1847, they submitted a Petition to Your Honourable House, with the signatures of about three thousand of the inhabitants, praying for a Division of the County by a line from East to West—as well as on several occasions since then.

Your Petitioners further represent that in the year A. D. 1849, at a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of London, presided over by the then, as well as the present, Warden of the County, the identical dividing line in the present Territorial Divisions Bill, was then discussed and ultimately decided on for Judicial or Electoral purposes; and was agreed on and approved of by every person present at said meeting, from the North part of the County and the Town of London, with the exception of one Gentleman only, who was in favor of a line from North to South.

Your Petitioners would further represent that in the year A. D. 1849, the Municipal Council of the County of Middlesex in Session assembled, discussed the question of the dividing line; and the same dividing line was then approved of, and by a Resolution of that Representative body, unanimously adopted; every Township was fully represented, every Councillor being present, and there was not one solitary dissenting voice amongst them—that same line was introduced into the Bill for the division of the County of Middlesex, submitted by the Representative of the County that same year to Your Honourable House, and has been known since then favourably in all Middlesex.

Your Petitioners further represent that they have learned that the County Council, through local influence in the Town of London and the old County, has reported only last month, that the County of Middlesex should be divided by a line diametrically opposed to the very line they unanimously recommended in the year A. D. 1849, and opposed to the line in the Territorial Divisions Bill now before Your Honourable House, by setting apart as the new County one-fourth of the population, and as the old County three-fourths of the population and wealth of Middlesex, and which Your Petitioners represent is a Division recently projected—never printed or published in the County; known only to a few of the people in the County; totally uncalled and concocted in the County Town of London, purposely to thwart the well known and often expressed wishes of the inhabitants in the South Division of Middlesex.

Your Petitioners have full confidence in the wisdom, impartiality and justice of Your Honourable House, to prevent recent local feeling and influence, from imposing an unjust division of the County of Middlesex, contrary to the often expressed wishes of the populous Talbot Settlement.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly, but earnestly, Pray Your Honourable House to divide the County of Middlesex by the line from East to West, as proposed in the Territorial Divisions Bill now before Your Honourable House, And Your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Signed in open Council, by Order of, and on behalf of the Council,

(Signed.)

RANDOLPH JOHNSON.

REEVE OF YARMOUTH.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true Copy,

(Signed)

W. J. WHITE, M. C. Clerk.

Town Hall, Yarmouth, the 14th day of June, A. D. 1851.